

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 120996
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH:CW
APPROVED BY S/S:FWISNER
EUR:GSVEST
PM:MR. GOMPERT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S, PM

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O 112245Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 120996

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASST. SECRETARY VEST

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MASS, SW

SUBJECT: SALE OF SWEDISH AIRCRAFT TO INDIA (VIGGEN)

1. AFTER EXTENSIVE SENIOR LEVEL CONSIDERATION, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT APPROVE THE SWEDISH REQUEST TO SELL AND CO-PRODUCE THE VIGGEN IN INDIA; AN APPROVAL WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT WITH OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY--OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MULTILATERAL RESTRAINT--AND UNDERMINE OUR LONGSTANDING POLICY OF PROMOTING REGIONAL STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA.

2. BECAUSE OUR INTELLIGENCE FROM INDIA STILL REPORTS THAT THE INDIANS WILL, IN ANY CASE, DECIDE IN FAVOR OF EITHER THE BRITISH OR THE FRENCH, WE PREFER TO DELAY INFORMING
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THE SWEDES OF THIS FINAL DECISION IN THE HOPE THAT THE INDIANS WILL INDICATE THEIR PREFERENCE FOR OTHER THAN THE SWEDISH PLANE, SO THAT THE US WILL NOT BE PRIMARILY BLAMED FOR THE EXPECTED INDIAN REJECTION OF THE VIGGEN.

3. THEREFORE, WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO SWEDISH INQUIRIES THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A FINAL DECISION TO PASS TO

THEM. YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME IN STOCKHOLM. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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